Sticking together

Canadian juniors grow close in Russia while far from the comforts of home PAGE 20

PSY-ZING UP 2012'S CELEB HEADLINERS

TURN THE PAGES TO SEE IF YOUR TOP 5 POP CULTURE MOMENTS OF THE LAST YEAR MATCH METRO'S PAGE 13

VANCOUVER metro®

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

News worth sharing.

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JUST GRIN AND BEAR IT

A man enjoys the annual polar bear swim at English Bay in Vancouver on Tuesday afternoon. The 93rd annual event attracted 2,233 swimmers, who braved the 7 C waters in all sorts of costumes and bathing suits. Story and photos, page 4. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

Back to work

Your holiday of sleeping in till noon and reading trashy novels is over — here are some coping strategies PAGE 18

Middle-earth comes to life

A visit to New Zealand is a must for any Tolkien devotee PAGE 14

Dinner in a cinch

Broccoli pasta is easy to prepare and budget-friendly PAGE 16

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Police struggling to ID victims of Vancouver-bound bus crash

47 people aboard. Majority of passengers were North Americans of South Korean descent, police say

Investigators in Oregon are trying to piece together the final moments before a Vancouver-bound tour bus carrying 47 people careened down a steep hillside, ejecting some of the passengers and killing at least nine.

Oregon State Police identified one of the nine victims as a 57-year-old Washington man. Authorities said Dale William Osborn of Spanaway was killed in Sunday's crash and his wife, Sue Osborn, remained hospitalized in Pendleton.

Authorities have not yet released the names of the other eight people who died, but police said the four men and four women were of Asian descent and one female victim may be a juvenile.

The bus was carrying tourists, including some who had been living in Canada, on the final leg of a nine-day tour of the western United States.

State Police Lt. Gregg Hastings said it could take a month or more to determine whether the driver, a 54-year-old man from Vancouver, will face any charges.

State police revised the number aboard the bus to 47 from 48 on Tuesday and confirmed 39 people were transported for treatment of injuries and at least 14 of them remained in hospital.

Hastings said Monday that investigators were still trying to confirm the citizenship of the victims, but a majority were of South Korean descent and lived in British Columbia, Washington state, Oregon and even Idaho.

The bus was travelling westbound in the left lane of Interstate 84 when it hit a concrete barrier, veered across both westbound lanes and went through the guardrail before plunging about 60 metres down the embankment, Hastings said. The National Transportation Safety Board said the bus rolled at least once.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian driver

A list of injured released by police named seven Canadian residents, including the driver, identified as Haeng Kyu Hwang.

Rescue workers and vehicles respond to a tour-bus crash in Pendleton, Ore., Sunday. Police are working to piece together the identities of the 47 victims. OREGON STATE POLICE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Langley family welcomes 2nd New Year's baby

Newlyweds Geraldine and David James with their first child, David James Jr., the province's first New Year's baby. Baby David was born at 12:02 a.m. at Royal Inland Hospital in Kamloops. INTERIOR HEALTH/CONTRIBUTED

Being the New Year baby runs in the Greenwood family.

Shane Carter Greenwood beat out others to become the first baby born in the Lower Mainland at 12:26 a.m. Tuesday at Langley Memorial Hospital.

Baby Shane, who weighed in at nine pounds five ounces, followed in the footsteps of his grandmother Kelly Greenwood. She was the New Year's baby born in Surrey in 1969.

Little Shane is the second son of Alyssa Burkhardt, 19, and Justin Greenwood, 20. He was also born in the same room as his two-year-old big brother Shawn.

Fraser Health spokeswoman Tasleem Juma said it was a busy night at Langley Memorial, with a total of five babies born — three boys and two girls.

In September, the hospital had a record number of babies born in one day with nine babies, she added.

Meanwhile B.C.'s New Year's baby — David James Jr. — was born just two minutes after midnight at Royal Inland Hospital in Kamloops. He weighed in at eight pounds eleven ounces.

According to an annual report from the B.C. Vital Statistics Agency, the most popular names for babies born in 2011 were Liam and Emma.

Ethan, Mason, Lucas and Benjamin were the next most popular names for boys, while the other top girls' names were Olivia, Sophia, Ava and Chloe.

The report also showed that the number of births in B.C. is on the rise. In 2011, there were a total of 43,991 births in B.C., up from 43,670 in 2010.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Baby bonanza

17,000

More than 17,000 babies are born every year in Fraser Health, says spokeswoman Tasleem Juma.

$45,000 in damages

SkyTrain worker charged for slashing seats

Terald Nicholas Gorecki, a 63-year-old SkyTrain maintenance worker, has been charged for allegedly slashing nearly 500 SkyTrain seats. Transit police say that 480 seats were cut with a box cutter between August and November 2012.

A slashed SkyTrain seat
TRANSLINK/CONTRIBUTED

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

'No major incidents'

Vancouver rings in New Year peacefully

Large crowds gathered in the Granville entertainment district and Gastown were in good spirits as they ushered in 2013, making it a quiet night for police.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Across the board

TransLink celebrates 2013 with fare increase

TransLink kicked off 2013 with an across the board fare increase of about 10 per cent.

Adult one-zone fares and two-zone fares rose 25 cents to $2.75 and $4 respectively, and three-zone fares are up 50 cents to $5.50.

Monthly pass prices rose as well, with one-zone jumping by $10 to $91, two-zone by $14 to $124 and three-zone by $19 to $170.

Discount, concession, DayPass and HandyDART fares are also up, but booklets of FareSaver tickets escaped the price jump.

The last time transit prices rose was 2008.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

My toes might still be frozen by the time you read this. I took the plunge into the 7 C water in English Bay for Vancouver's 93rd annual New Year's Day polar bear swim alongside 2,233 registered swimmers dressed in antlers, spandex, orange hazmat suits, bikinis and at least one man-thong.

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

ALL PHOTOS BY JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

Brrrrrrrrr-inging in the new year

1 Get me. Outta here!
A woman screams as she runs out of the water during the 93rd polar bear swim in English Bay.

2 Hug yourself. Hug another
Participants try to stay warm before braving the water.

3 Oh, come on. If Torontonians can do it at -4 C....
At a relatively balmy 7 C, the water was warmer than the 3 C air temperature.

4 We handled it. Pretty well
A couple holds hands as they run out of English Bay. More than 2,200 people took part in the dip, one of the largest in Canada.

There was no time for second-guessing when the crowd in the fenced corral charged the ocean at 2:30 p.m.

Heart racing, I sprinted into the water alongside costumed folks young and old, a chorus of shrieks, laughter and expletives filling the air.

The water might have felt balmy compared to the 3 C air temperature, but I wasn't about to stay in long enough to test the theory on my first polar bear swim — even though I wore wool socks to protect my toes.

Dip veteran George Pajari on the other hand splashed around with a pool noodle on his fourth outdoor swim of the day.

"I'm proud to share the moment of collective insanity," Pajari said, adding that the water was much colder in Vancouver and Deep Cove than White Rock and Port Moody. "It's a great way to start the year."

It wasn't the first plunge for Allen Peterson, 59, either. What started as a dare after a night of libations 35 years ago turned into a family tradition complete with penguin costumes, worn by his son Jason, 24, and friend Craig Blades, 30.

"We're from Antarctica originally, so this is hot-tub water for us," Jason joked before the swim.

Cousins Sara Tourand, 18, and Alicia Ascon-Tourand, 14, both did the dip for the first time. Ascon-Tourand even dressed as Pooh bear for the occasion.

"I've never been in an ocean before," Saskatchewan resident Tourand said. The giggling pair was excited and nervous — Ascon-Tourand "chickened out" last year.

About 25 boxes of food were donated to the food bank, the park board's Healy said, and the event went off without any incidents. (Sometimes people imbibe liquid courage before they dive in, which can pose safety problems in the cold water, senior lifeguard Tom Hollett said.)

And your Metro correspondent can confirm the rumours are true — the polar bear swim really is the best cure for a New Year's Day hangover.

5 Celebrate. With a cold one
A man toasts the New Year with a dip in the Pacific.

Stampede after fireworks kills 61

New Year's tragedy. Most of those killed in Ivory Coast city were children and teens

A crowd stampeded after leaving a New Year's Eve fireworks show early Tuesday in Ivory Coast's main city, killing 61 people — many of them children and teenagers — and injuring more than 200, rescue workers said.

Thousands had gathered at the Felix Houphouet Boigny Stadium in Abidjan's Plateau district to see the fireworks. It was only the second New Year's Eve fireworks display since peace returned to this West African nation after a bloody upheaval over presidential elections put the nation on the brink of civil war and turned this city into a battle zone.

With 2013 showing greater promise, people were in the mood to celebrate on New Year's Eve. Families brought children and they watched the rockets burst in the nighttime sky. But only an hour into the new year, as the crowds poured onto the Boulevard de la Republic after the show, something caused a stampede, said Col. Issa Sako of the fire department rescue team. How so many deaths occurred on the broad boulevard and how the tragedy started is likely to be the subject of an investigation.

Many of the younger ones in the crowd went down, trampled underfoot. Most of those killed were eight to 15 years old.

Missing children

"I have just seen all the bodies, but I cannot find my son.... I don't know what to do."

Mamadou Sanogo, who was searching for his nine-year-old son, Sayed, at the morgue

"The flood of people leaving the stadium became a stampede, which led to the deaths of more than 60 and injured more than 200," Sako told Ivory Coast state TV.

Desperate parents went to the city morgue, the hospital and the stadium to try to find missing children.

State TV showed a woman sobbing in the back of an ambulance; another was bent over on the side of the street, apparently in pain; and another, barely conscious and wearing only a bra on her upper body, was hoisted by rescuers. There were also scenes of small children being treated in a hospital. One boy grimaced in pain and a girl with coloured braids in her hair lay under a blanket with one hand bandaged. The death toll could rise, officials said.

The government organized the fireworks to celebrate Ivory Coast's peace, after several months of political violence in early 2011 following disputed elections. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A soldier stands next to the belongings of people involved in a deadly stampede in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. At least 61 people were killed following a New Year's Eve fireworks display. EMANUEL EKRA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Age test to decide if suspected rapist can face murder charge

India. Prosecutors seek death penalty for five other suspects held in rape and murder case

A bone test is being conducted to confirm the age of a young suspect in custody in the fatal assault and gang rape of a woman on a bus in India's capital, while prosecutors will seek the death penalty for five other men arrested with him, police said Tuesday.

The six will be formally charged Thursday on accusations that they kidnapped, gang-raped and murdered the 23-year-old woman in New Delhi on Dec. 16, a police spokesman said. Outraged Indians have been demanding the death penalty for the six men, holding demonstrations almost every day. Murder is punishable by death; rape, by life imprisonment. But those below 18 years of age cannot be prosecuted for murder.

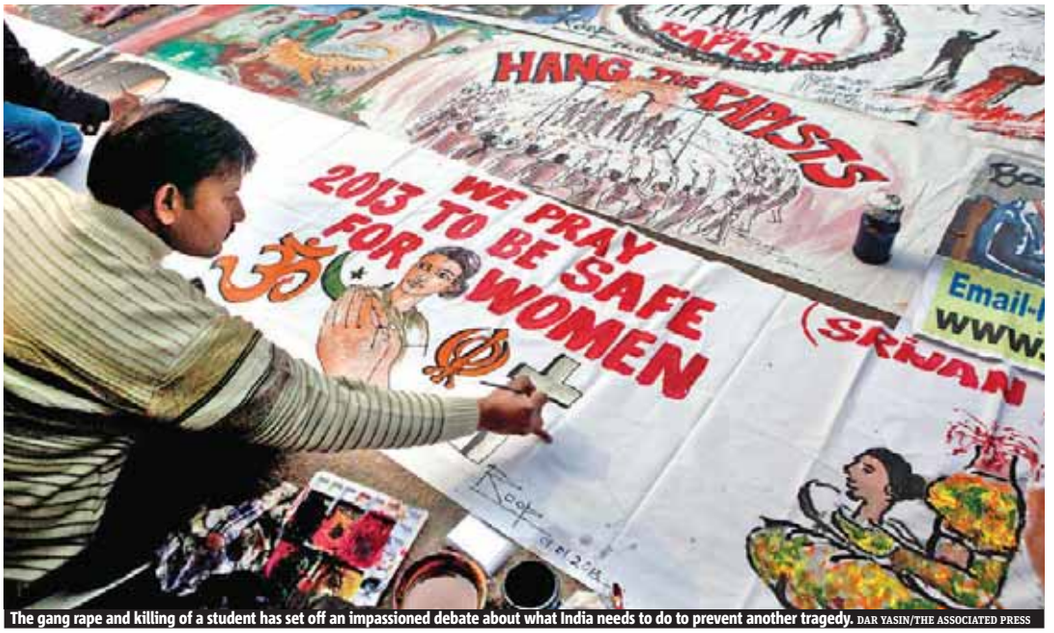
Another officer said a bone test is being conducted to determine if one suspect is indeed a juvenile. If the test determines he is 18 years or older he will be treated as an adult, said the officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Many officials cancelled their New Year's celebrations on Monday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

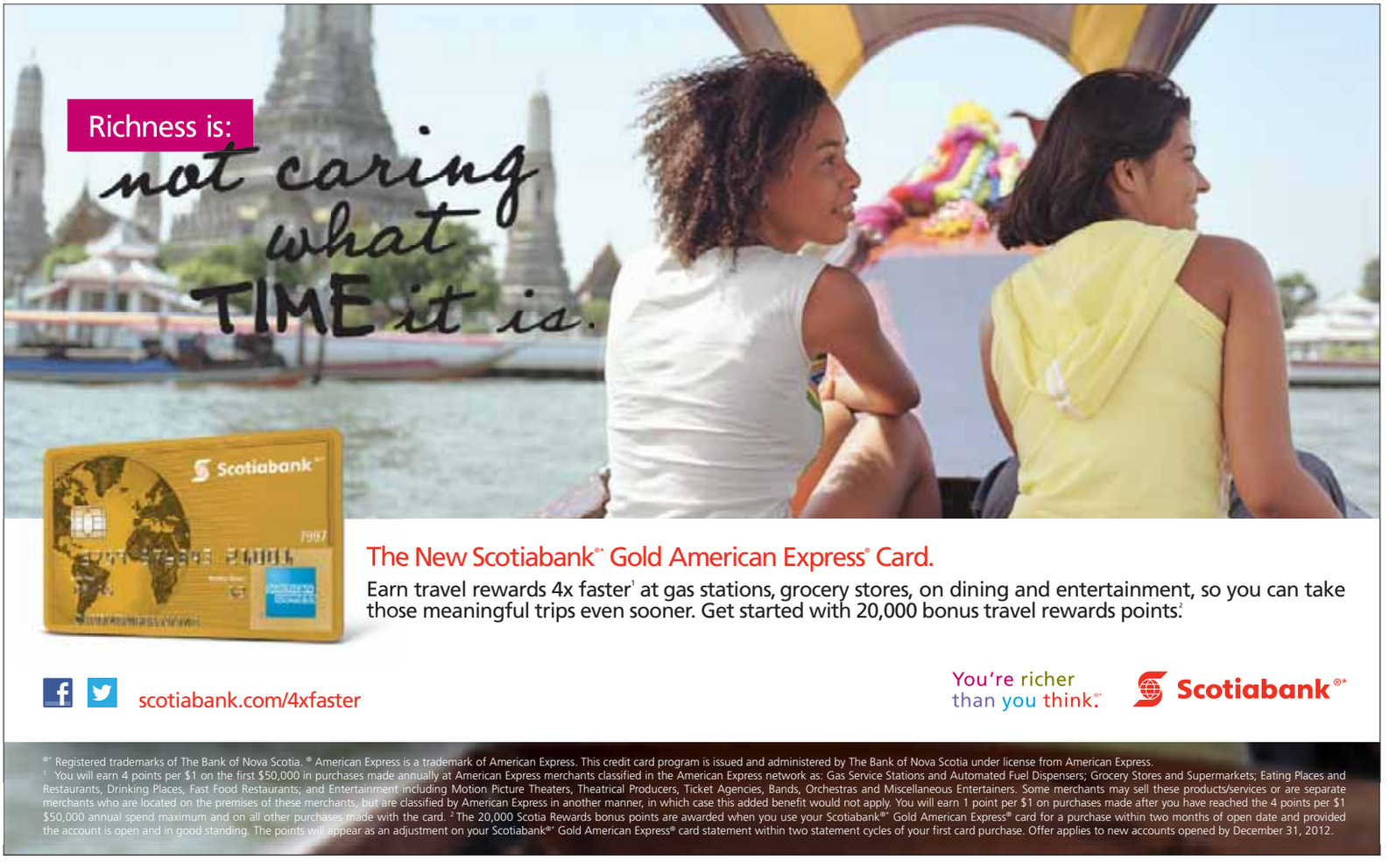
Too often ignored

Activists hope the assault will shatter taboos and make authorities take such cases more seriously.

- Police often refuse to hear complaints, and even accuse victims of inviting male attention.
- Families also dissuade victims from coming forward in the belief that it will ruin their reputations.



The gang rape and killing of a student has set off an impassioned debate about what India needs to do to prevent another tragedy. DAR YASIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Clinton expected to make full recovery

Blood clot. Democrats speculate how it might affect possible run for president in 2016

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton continues to recover in a New York hospital where she is being treated for a blood clot in her head.

Her doctors say blood thinners are being used to dissolve the clot and they are confident she will make a full recovery. Clinton didn't suffer a stroke or neurological damage from the clot that formed after she suffered a concussion during a fainting spell at her home in early December, doctors said in a statement on Monday.

Clinton, 65, was admitted to New York-Presbyterian Hospital on Sunday when the clot turned up on a follow-up exam for the concussion, Clinton spokesman Phillipe Reines said. The clot is located in the vein in the space between the brain and the skull behind the right ear. She will be released once the medication dose for the blood thinners has been established, the doctors said.

Concussion

In early December Clinton fell ill with a stomach virus, and eventually fainted, fell and suffered a concussion while at home alone in mid-December as she recovered from the virus.

In their statement, Dr. Lisa Bardack of the Mount Kisco Medical Group and Dr. Gigi El-Bayoumi of George Washington University said Clinton was making excellent progress and was in good spirits.

The area where Clinton's clot developed is "a drainage channel, the equivalent of a big vein inside the skull. It's how the blood gets back to the heart," said Dr. Larry Goldstein, director of Duke University's stroke centre. He is not involved in Clinton's care.

Blood thinners usually are enough to treat the clot and it should have no long-term consequences if her doctors are saying she has suffered no neurological damage from it, Goldstein said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Year's ritual. French youths set more than a thousand cars on fire

Hundreds of parked cars go up in flames in France each New Year's Eve, set afire by young revellers: A much-lamented tradition that remained intact this year, with 1,193 vehicles burned, Interior Minister Manuel Valls said on Tuesday.

His announcement was the first time in three years that such figures have been released. The conservative government of former president Nicolas Sarkozy had decided to stop publishing them in a bid to reduce the crime — and avoid playing into the hands of car-torching youths who try to outdo each other.

France's current Socialist government decided otherwise, deeming total transparency the best method, and the rate of burned cars apparently remained steady. On Dec. 31, 2009, the last public figure available, 1,147 vehicles were burned.

Like many countries, France sees cars set on fire during the year for many reasons, including gangs hiding clues of their crimes and people making false insurance claims.

But car-torching took a new step in France when it became a way to mark the arrival of the New Year. The practice reportedly began in earnest among youths — often in poor neighbourhoods — in the 1990s in the region around Strasbourg in eastern France.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York City

20-year-old killed after falling onto subway tracks

New York City police say a young woman stumbling around on a subway platform not far from Times Square fell onto the tracks and was killed by a train.

The accident happened before dawn on New Year's Day at a station just one stop from where revellers gather in Times Square to celebrate at midnight.

Police say the victim was in her 20s. Her name was not released.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cooked currency

Bank of Canada releases report on melting bills

Disclosing details of behind-the-scenes discussions about tales of melting banknotes could endanger national security or international relations, says Canada's central bank.

In response to a formal request from The Canadian Press, the Bank Of Canada released 134 pages of internal records — almost completely blanked out — concerning allegations its new polymer bills melted in the scorching summer sun.

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Executive pay. Top CEOs in Canada earn average of $7.7M, research shows

By the end of the lunch hour on Jan. 2, the highest paid chief executive officers in Canada will have earned as much as the average Canadian makes all year, a new survey of CEO pay shows.

The top 100 CEOs in Canada earned $7.7 million on average in 2011, the latest data collected by an Ottawa-based think-tank found.

In comparison, the average industrial wage was $45,488, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives notes.

This is the seventh year the policy group has prepared a database of executive pay based on publicly available documents.

It began doing so in 2005 to help focus public debate on the growing gap between rich and poor, said Hugh Mackenzie, an economist and research associate with the think-tank.

Total executive compensation includes base salary, bonus, stocks and stock options, and the value of things like pension and dental plans, use of a corporate jet and other benefits.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Leaders of the pack

Frank Stronach, honorary chair of Magna International Inc.
GETTY IMAGES FILE

- Frank Stronach, honorary chair of Magna International Inc., led the CEO pay parade, earning $40 million in 2011.
- Michael Pearson, head of Montreal-based Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc., came in second with a pay packet of $36.3 million, most of it in shares. In third place was Robert Quartermain, head of Vancouver-based gold exploration firm Pretium Resources Inc., at $16.9 million.

Fiscal cliff deal passes in late-night Congress vote

Washington, D.C. Rare New Year's Day session ends successfully after Senate and House OK compromise bill

Sen. John Barrasso, left, R-Wyo., talks with Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, holding up his watch, after a vote on the fiscal cliff Tuesday on Capitol Hill. The Senate and House passed legislation early New Year's Day to neutralize a fiscal cliff combination of across-the-board tax increases and spending cuts that kicked in at midnight. ALEX BRANDON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Past its own New Year's deadline, a weary Congress sent U.S. President Barack Obama legislation to avoid a national fiscal cliff of middle-class tax increases and spending cuts late Tuesday night in the culmination of a struggle that strained America's divided government to the limit.

The bill's passage on a bipartisan 257-167 vote in the House sealed a hard-won political triumph for the president less than two months after he secured re-election while calling for higher taxes on the wealthy.

Moments later, Obama strode into the White House briefing room and declared, "Thanks to the votes of Republicans and Democrats in Congress, I will sign a law that raises taxes on the wealthiest 2 per cent of Americans while preventing tax hikes that could have sent the economy back into recession."

He spoke with Vice-President Joe Biden at his side, a recognition of the former senator's role as the lead Democratic negotiator in final compromise talks with Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

In addition to neutralizing middle-class tax increases and spending cuts taking effect with the new year, the legislation will raise tax rates on incomes over $400,000 for individuals and $450,000 for couples. That was higher than the thresholds of $200,000 and $250,000 that Obama campaigned for. But remarkably, in a party that swore off tax increases two decades ago, dozens of Republicans supported the bill at both ends of the Capitol.

Supporters of the bill in both parties expressed regret that it was narrowly drawn, and fell far short of a sweeping plan that combined tax changes and spending cuts to reduce federal deficits. That proved to be a step too far in the two months since Obama called congressional leaders to the White House for a postelection stab at compromise.

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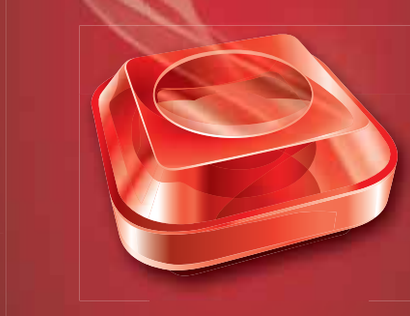

HALLS

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YOLO, SO IT'S TIME TO RETIRE THESE CLICHÉS

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/voices/just-saying

How many times over the past year have you heard the term "double down"?

If you answered, "Too many," you probably feel much the same way about other misused and abused words and phrases of 2012, including, but not restricted to: Fiscal cliff, trending, passion, spoiler alert, bucket list, superfood and the now unavoidable YOLO (you only live once).

These and others turned up on this year's Lake Superior State University's 2013 List of Banned Words. When you're only a minor seat of higher learning in the snowbelt — and not Harvard — you need to come up with a shtick to get noticed.

Back in 1975, some PR genius at LSSU came up with the idea of an annual list of words that need to be banned. Every year, the university publishes a selection of words and phrases compiled from the submissions of grumpy wordsmiths across North America, and every year, the news services cover it as if it's actually news. Of course, "wordsmith" made the list one year, but, like most of the other words on the list, people just keep on using them … until they don't.

An aptitude for platitudes

It's like you belong to a club, and the only requirement for membership is that you have to use the trendy word before your mother texts it to her BFF.

The list is more important now than ever as the alarming proliferation of bloggers who feed off other bloggers has led to the near-complete eradication of original thought, as everyone doubles down on the trending slang.

It's like you belong to a club, and the only requirement for membership is that you have to use the trendy word before your mother texts it to her BFF (previously banned abbreviation for best friend forever). If you continue to use it after that, you earn the scorn of the haters, but I'm sure everyone else thinks you're terribly trending.

The problem with "trending," according to its nominators, is that it's not up to the task: Trending which way? Up? Down? Out?

The problem with the fiscal cliff is obvious. Talk about a lazy reference to the worst financial crisis of the century to date. But instead of working hard to understand it, all of us lemmings prefer to roll it up and package it in a neat phrase that we can take with us as we go over it.

"Double down" is particularly odious. It allows you to pretend you're a real riverboat gambler, comfortable with high-risk blackjack strategies, when you don't know jack about doubling down or hitting me up or whatever.

One of my faves this year is "passion," as in "That's my passion," justifying some inane or inherently dangerous practice you're currently enthusiastic about. "Passion" goes well with "fruit" and "Easter," but otherwise should be avoided as overkill.

Just because YOLO doesn't mean you should give in to your passion for clichés.

Just sayin'.

Oh yeah? Trend this: Psy, left, performs in Times Square during New Year's Eve celebrations in New York City. The South Korean rapper was third in Google's 12th-annual ranking of trending searches for 2012.

CHARLES SYKES/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow on the Mediterranean

ODED BALILTY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Distinct society

From Russia with love of culture

The children of immigrants from the former Soviet Union attend a ballet class in Lod, central Israel. The Soviet state crumbled 20 years ago, and in the aftermath, more than one million of its citizens took advantage of Jewish roots to emigrate to Israel. Some prominent ballet dancers were among them, forming ballet schools and continuing a dance culture highly regarded in their mother country.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Growing influence

3rd

Israel has the world's third-largest Russian-speaking community outside of the former Soviet Union, after the U.S. and Germany. Today, Russian-speaking émigrés and their children occupy virtually every corner of Israeli society, from academia and technology to the military and politics. Every fourth employee in Israel's flourishing high-tech industry is a Russian-speaking immigrant, as is every other engineer. The world's second-ranked chess master, Belarus-born Boris Gelfand, lives in Israel, and about one-quarter of Israel's Olympic coaches grew up in the former Soviet Union.

Kosher clash

ODED BALILTY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An employee of the Mizra pork-processing plant poses with a pig's head in a refrigerated warehouse in Kibbutz Mizra, northern Israel. The Russian immigrant community has increased demand for pork in the country, a non-kosher food rarely eaten by Israeli Jews.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Old country and new

Russian power on the rise

By virtue of their sheer numbers in a country of eight million people, the Russian population has transformed Israel. In parts of the country, it's hard to find a single Hebrew sign in a sea of Cyrillic. Shopkeepers address customers in Russian and stores are amply stocked with red caviar and vodka. Russian pop beats thump at bars, and in some homes, people are as likely to be hunched over a chessboard as they are a computer keyboard.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

How long could you survive in your house if there was a severe natural disaster?

Twitter

@sarahblyth: En route to PB Swim. Pretty chilly but otherwise a perfect day.

@evelazarus: It's the 93rd anniversary of the New Year's Day Polar Bear swim in #Vancouver started by Peter Pantages picture/blog at http://bit.ly/Vu4LjC

@Rob_Fleming: Congrats to Mike Harcourt, fmr #bcndp Premier, on being named to Order of Canada http://bit.ly/XblfC #bcpoli

@FinDonnelly: Bringing in the #NewYear #PortMoody Penguin Plunge w @rickglumac, Fred Soofi & former PoMo Mayor David Driscoll pic.twitter.com/ZaBVz7Kz

@PhenomenalOne: I've gone 6 months without Hockey, don't know how, but I didn't go insane. I'm ready for the suspense to end and watch my Canucks!

metro

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DVD review

Looper

Director. Rian Johnson

Stars. Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Emily Blunt

Looper is a real head flip of a time trip, definitely not your usual ray gun routine, which is why it was chosen as the gala opener for this year's TIFF.
Skillfully bending genres since he first smashed with Brick in 2005, Rian Johnson puts that film's star, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, into an identity crisis sci-fi thriller set in the Kansas of 2044.
JGL plays Joe, a "looper" (hit man) working for innovative mobsters from the year 2074, who use a time machine to send their victims back three decades for untraceable bullets and burning.
Fast cash is just a shot away for ice-cool Joe and his blunderbuss – until a new crime kingpin decides to "close the loop" and the mirror threatens.
Bruce Willis and Emily Blunt co-star in this future shocker that is smarter than most, at least until the novelty wears thin.
Extras include deleted scenes, making-of featurettes and feature commentary by Rian Johnson, Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Emily Blunt.

PETER HOWELL

Horror icon Leatherface returns to hunt unsuspecting teenagers in the latest installment of The Texas Chainsaw Massacre series, Texas Chainsaw 3D. HANDOUT

Carving out a killer franchise — in 3D

Horror. The Texas Chainsaw Massacre's Leatherface has been terrifying audiences for more than 30 years

Two far-flung events inspired director Tobe Hooper to write The Texas Chainsaw Massacre, the down-and-dirty 1974 indie film that spawned sequels, prequels and this weekend's splashy 3D remake — the imaginatively titled Texas Chainsaw 3D.

In November 1957, police raided the home of Plainfield, Wis., farmer Ed Gein, uncovering gruesome evidence that would lead to charges of murder and body snatching.

After two trials, he spent the rest of his life in a mental facility, but his story would go on to inspire three characters–Norman Bates from Psycho, Buffalo Bill from The Silence of the Lambs and one other that would serve as the basis for six films.

Gunnar Hansen, who played Leatherface in Texas Chainsaw Massacre, says Hooper and co-writer Kim Henkel based the character of the hooded chainsaw killer on Gein.

"When they set out to write this movie," he said, "they decided to have a family of killers who had some of the characteristics of Gein: the skin masks, the furniture made from bones, the possibility of cannibalism."

Hooper adds the story was also partially inspired by "the massacres and atrocities in the Vietnam War" and a display of chainsaws in the hardware section of a crowded Montgomery Ward's department store.

"The idea popped," he remembered. "I said, 'Ooh, I know how I could get out of this place fast — if I just start one of these things up and make that sound.'"

That nerve-jangling noise — the revving of a chainsaw — has been the soundtrack of terror ever since. The original is an atmospheric gem, a white-knuckle movie that made Leatherface the first icon of modern horror.

The apron-wearing cannibal has appeared in five more films — most of which don't veer too far from the original plot line of unsuspecting kids falling prey to a family of demented, cannibalistic inbreds.

There's The Texas Chainsaw Massacre 2, starring Dennis Hopper, Leatherface: TCM III, TCM: The Next Generation (starring the then-unknown Matthew McConaughey and Renée Zellweger), 2003's The Texas Chainsaw Massacre, TCM: The Beginning and the new 3D version.

Leatherface's scares don't always happen on screen, however. At the Kingsway Theatre in Toronto, the flick inspired audience participation when someone dressed in a butcher's outfit ran down the aisle brandishing a real, revving chainsaw.

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Top 5 pop culture moments of 2012

Entertainment. From 'Hey, sexy lady' to saying goodbye to an icon, Metro looks back at some of the year's biggest moments.

Top 5

1. Whitney Houston dies.
2. Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes divorce.
3. Kristen Stewart cheats on Robert Pattinson.
4. PSY takes over the world with Gangnam Style.
5. The royals are having a baby.

Pop icon Whitney Houston was only 48 years old when she died on Feb. 11. GETTY IMAGES

•"**Whitney Houston**'s death in February was a tragic event that symbolically set the tone for a year where the old guard in soul and R&B music gave way to a younger generation, as hip-hop kids like **Frank Ocean**, **Miguel** and **The Weeknd** basically reinvented the genre in 2012." **PAT HEALY**

•"I remember going to a party and it's all anyone could talk about. I mean, we all knew she wasn't doing well, but I guess we didn't realize the extent of her fall from grace until it was too late." **DOROTHY ROBINSON**

Kristen Stewart issued a public apology to boyfriend Robert Pattinson when she was caught cheating this summer. GETTY IMAGES

•"Our 'Kristen, how could you?' cover is blown-up and hanging on the wall next to my desk. Every day I ask myself the same thing." **MEREDITH ENGEL**

•"At the risk of giving this any more ink: **Robert Pattinson**'s hair at least deserves to be cheated on in a proper hotel room." **MONICA WEYMOUTH**

•"I can't believe you would vote for Stewart/Pattinson break up when we don't mention Fifty Shades. It's bonkers it's not on this list. But maybe it's not because we are all still wondering how such badly written erotica could take off like it did." **DR**

•"I just wanted to say that I think my 2012 approach to the Kardashian family has really worked this year. I vowed at the onset of 2012 to not speak the Kardashian name aloud. And look at how you're not seeing them on quite as many magazine covers in the checkout line. They're not even on this list! It's the power of the cosmic unconscious, people! Yes, the one that they call Kim is doing whatever she can to keep her flicker of fame alight — hiring Kanye West to pretend like he's into her and now pregnant with his child — but in 2013 if we all agree not to speak the name of that family, I think we can finally make them go away forever." **PH**

•"I never thought I'd be someone who thinks of themselves as a 'royal fan' but I really dig Kate and William and I'm excited for them." **DR**

Psycho for Psy

"When my mother asked me what K-Pop was, I knew this thing was bigger than all of us. Parents are the best barometer."

Heidi Patalano, on Gangnam Style

Psy GETTY IMAGES

Editor's picks

The Word's Top 5

- 1. Whitney's death
- 2. Fifty Shades phenomenon
- 3. Gangnam Style
- 4. Twilight breakup
- 5. Katie and Tom divorce

I hate to be so morbid that Whitney's death would be the biggest event of the year, but it was just so shocking.

Coming in at No. 2 for me is Fifty Shades of Grey. It's not too often that a book comes along that every single woman, from your housekeeper to your grandmother, has read.

Unfortunately, this was that book. And it was neat to see Gangnam taking over The Macarena as the biggest dance craze of the century.

DOROTHY ROBINSON

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The Real Middle-earth

With last month's world premiere of Peter Jackson's The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey in New Zealand, a trip to experience Middle-earth is likely on the bucket list for many fans. Below are some of the top New Zealand tourism activities focused on The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey.

RUTH ATHERLEY
life@metronews.ca

Hobbiton

Near Matamata, a picturesque town just two and a half hours from Auckland (New Zealand's largest city and the gateway to Middle-earth), visitors can enjoy a guided tour of the Hobbiton movie set.

Hidden in the magical, spectacularly green, rolling hills of the area is Hobbiton, the film set made famous in The Lord of the Rings trilogy.

Along with 37 Hobbit holes, fans can check out the Green Dragon Inn, The Mill and other structures used in the upcoming films. Not only has Hobbiton gained fame as a movie set, it is also a working farm experience, café and conference facility.

It's definitely a must for anyone who wants to truly experience the "Shire" when in New Zealand.

Hobbiton movie set in Matamata. FLICKR: ARBRON

Mountain bike skippers canyon track, Queenstown. FLICKR: TRAILSOURCE.COM

Four-wheel drive safari tour in Queenstown

Any reason to visit Queenstown, on New Zealand's South Island, is a good one, and a four-wheel drive adventure through Middle-earth gives visitors a great reason to go.

The Queenstown area was prominently featured in the filming of The Lord of the Rings trilogy and Nomad Safaris offers two different tours designed specifically for fans.

The guides are definitely one of the highlights of the tour — many were extras in the films. They know, and are happy to share, all of the local gossip about what the stars of the movies did while they were filming in the area.

Wellington

Everyone who goes to Wellington falls in love with the fun, foodie and fashion-focused city that sits at the southern tip of the North Island.

Known to many as "Wellywood" because of its flourishing film industry, fans can experience the ultimate Middle-earth full-day tour with Wellington Rover Tours — where fans can follow in the footsteps of Hobbits, and spend the day learning film secrets. Wellington also boasts the Weta Cave, which screens a behind-the-scenes look at Weta and interviews co-founder Peter Jackson, among others, has a mini-museum with some of the characters and features props and displays from The Lord of the Rings films.

Wellington. FLICKR: ASGW

Regional highlights

Hamilton Waikato

Hobbits have roamed the hills at Hobbiton movie set, near Matamata, where The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit Trilogies were filmed.

Christchurch Canterbury

The Canterbury region was used for numerous locations for The Lord of the Rings Trilogy and the Mount Cook region has been used again for The Hobbit. Aoraki Mount Cook (3,754 metres) is New Zealand's highest mountain and means cloud piercer.

See for yourself

Air New Zealand (airnewzealand.ca) has direct non-stop flights from Vancouver to Auckland and offers flights from many other North American cities. For more information about New Zealand, please visit: NewZealand.com.

- Hobbiton movie set tours – hobbitontours.com.

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Can you imagine a better setting than this for the big day? HANDOUT

Dreaming of saying your vows under the Caribbean sun?

Destination wedding.
A few things to keep in mind if you're looking for a stress-free ceremony

LOREN CHRISTIE
life@metronews.ca

A growing number of brides and grooms are heading to tropical climes in the hopes of having memorable nuptials.

Before you book your destination wedding, there are a few things to bear in mind.

The costs can vary widely depending on the time and place you get married.

The proximity and easy flight access into Cuba, Dominican Republic and Mexico's Mayan Riviera tend to mean there are better deals to be found in these locales. If your dates are flexible, consider holding off until the April shoulder season and you will fare much better with accommodation rates.

Look into any special regulations. Many of the popular Caribbean destinations require you to be on the island anywhere from two to five days prior to the ceremony.

Typically, you will also need a special marriage license in the local language that could cost several hundred dollars depending on the island, and you may be required to get a blood test. Both future spouses must present proof of citizenship of their resident country.

Hire a local wedding specialist. Bridezilla or not, it can be hard planning a wedding from afar.

A good planner can be your liaison between all the legal bits that need to happen and finding the best and most reliable vendors, from the florist to the photographer to the caterer. At the very least, look at booking a resort that offers a pre-set wedding package that includes a handful of these elements, such as a justice of the peace, document arrangements and a special location for your ceremony.

Be prepared for bathing suit-clad onlookers. Whether you get married on a resort or at the beach, privacy is something that is hard to guarantee. If you want your ceremony to feel a little more intimate, consider an island like Anguilla, which allows foreigners to get married in local churches.

Consider your guests. If you are hoping loved ones will be coming along to share your big day, the cost of the vacation does matter. Negotiate with your resort or tour operator for a group discount. Also, tell people not to bring gifts, the cost of the trip is enough.

You don't want to be bringing a toaster home on the plane anyway.

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Broccoli Pasta's double duty as cash saver and warming dish

Whenever you have too little time and too few ingredients on hand — or when you've been eating too much meat — a great alternative is some Broccoli Pasta.

It's delicious, healthy, inexpensive and easy to prepare. The recipe, in fact, is a cinch, consisting of just a few ingredients — pasta, chicken broth, Parmigiano-Reggiano, olive oil and a large head of the namesake crucifer.

Another of this recipe's charms is its flexibility. You can swap in vegetable broth for chicken broth, spaghetti for the angel hair pasta, and any other grated hard cheese for the Parmigiano-Reggiano. Sometimes you can even lose the broccoli in favour of roasted cauliflower or Brussels sprouts.

But what makes the dish so popular is its comfort factor. It can be served soupy, so you can slurp the chicken broth along with the strands of pasta. You can also make sure there's some crusty bread within easy reach, which helps to mop up the broth not captured with a spoon.

This dish is so economical it's almost ecological.

Cold Weather Broccoli Pasta

This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1. Heat oven to 450 F. Position one of the racks in top third of oven.

2. Bring pot of water to a boil.

3. Cut broccoli, including the stems, into 2-inch pieces. Peel any thick stem pieces to remove the thick skin.

4. On rimmed baking sheet, arrange broccoli in single layer. Drizzle with oil then sprinkle with salt to taste and toss well. Place on top oven rack and roast for 10 minutes, or until broccoli is crisp tender and slightly brown at the edges. Transfer the broccoli to a large skillet, add the pepper flakes and the chicken broth, then bring to a boil over medium-high heat.

5. When water in large pot comes to boil, add a hefty pinch of salt and the pasta. Stir and cook 2 minutes, or until the pasta is limp but not quite cooked through. Drain pasta and transfer it to the broccoli pan. Simmer for 2 minutes, or until the pasta is al dente. Stir in the Parmigiano-Reggiano and salt to taste. Ladle into shallow soup bowls and serve.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/SARA MOULTON IS THE AUTHOR OF THREE COOKBOOKS, INCLUDING SARA MOULTON'S EVERYDAY FAMILY DINNERS.

Ingredients

- 1 large head broccoli (about 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 pounds)
- 2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- Kosher salt
- 1 to 2 tsp red pepper flakes, or to taste
- 1 quart low-sodium chicken stock
- 1/2 lb whole-wheat capellini pasta
- 1 cup freshly grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese

Drink of the Week

Winter Wind

This drink contains traditional holiday spices and ingredients that remind recipe creator Nishan Nepulongoda of festive seasons.

"The sweetness of cinnamon mixed with fresh lime citrus creates a balanced taste that has an added hint of spice when topped with the ginger beer," says Nepulongoda, a mixologist at Blowfish Restaurant in Toronto.

- 60 ml (2 oz) gin
- 30 ml (1 oz) fresh lime juice
- 30 ml (1 oz) simple syrup
- Pinch ground cinnamon powder
- Ice cubes
- Ginger beer
- Lime slice, for garnish

Shake all ingredients with ice. Pour into a rocks glass with fresh ice. Top up with ginger beer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ BOMBAY SAPPHIRE

Getting all a-Twitter about social media? Don't forget to retweet

Success on a screen.
The web world is complex, but connecting is key to climbing the job ladder

LEAH RUEHLICKE
TalentEgg.ca

In this day and age, having an online presence is just as essential to your job search as having an error-free resumé.

However, between LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook and Google+ it can be difficult to master how to effectively manage your many online lives.

Once you've upped your Facebook privacy settings as high as they can go, it's pretty easy to learn how to navigate the 'book.

Twitter, on the other hand, can be a bit trickier to grasp, especially for students and recent grads who don't already have built-in professional networks.

Here are a few tips for getting started:

Mastering the Twitterverse

• Begin by listening
Use Twitter's search function to find people and feeds which are of interest to you. Spend some time exploring these outlets and looking at how they are utilizing Twitter.

Pleased to meet you!

Avoid privacy settings

- Keeping an open profile will actually work to your advantage in the world of Twitter.
- Open accounts enable you to connect and share thoughts and ideas more easily with others, which is exactly what Twitter is all about.
- On that note, don't be too open. Twitter is a place for you to solidify yourself as an individual and a professional, not to argue about whose turn it is to do the dishes.

The best of your brain

"Tweet out information your followers will find valuable rather than which nail polish colour or salad dressing you went with today."
Leah Ruehlicke

• Maintain your humanity
Keep your tweeting tone natural and in your own voice.

The whole point of Twitter is to show who you are and what interests you.

• Make like a pencil and have a point
Share links to relevant articles and express your own views.

Tweet out information your followers will find valuable rather than which nail polish colour or salad dressing you went with today.

• Tweet regularly
Keep your profile current and tweet on a regular basis. This keeps your online presence up to date and will hold the attention of your followers.

That being said, if you have nothing to say, don't feel you have to post.

• Pay it forward
Retweeting the posts of others builds rapport with your followers, sparks conversation and demonstrates to others that you don't think it's all about you — you can appreciate what others have to say as well.

• Be appreciative
Acknowledge retweets by publicly thanking those who share your posts — unless your every tweet gets tweeted 900 times.

Then use some discretion (and probably expect an invitation to appear on The Ellen DeGeneres Show).

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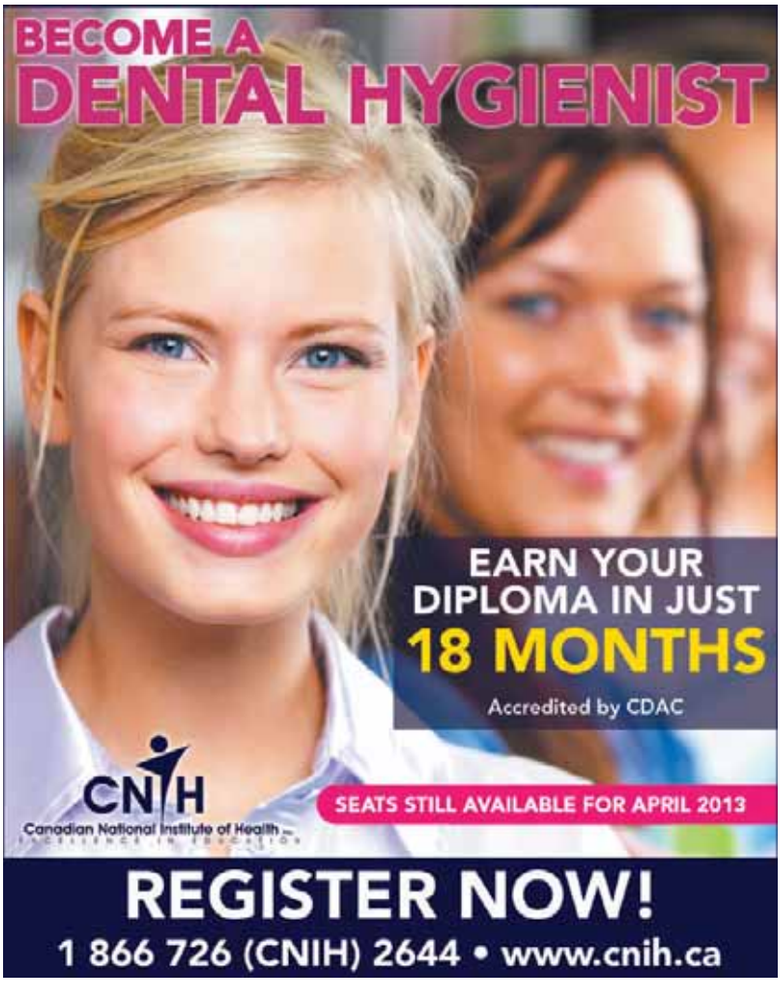
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Tuesday, Jan. 15, noon – room 629	Downtown
Tuesday, Jan. 22, noon – room 629	Downtown
Apprenticeship training: Labour Market Agreement (LMA)	
Thursday, Jan. 3, 1 p.m. – room 237	Downtown
Office administration	
Thursday, Jan. 3, 5:30 p.m. – room 240	Downtown
Paralegal	
Thursday, Jan. 3, 6:30 p.m. – room 240	Downtown
Building service worker	
Monday, Jan. 7, 1 p.m. – room 206	Downtown
Wednesday, Jan. 16, 1 p.m. – room 206	Downtown
Transportation trades	
Tuesday, Jan. 8, 11 a.m. – lobby, building B	Broadway
Tuesday, Jan. 15, 11 a.m. – lobby, building B	Broadway
Tuesday, Jan. 22, 11 a.m. – lobby, building B	Broadway
Adult special education	
Monday, Jan. 21, 1 p.m. – room 311	Downtown

Downtown campus is located at 200-block Dunsmuir at Hamilton, two blocks west of Stadium SkyTrain station.

Broadway campus is located at 1155 East Broadway, one block west of Clark Drive and across from VCC/Clark SkyTrain station.

Visit **vcc.ca** or call **604.871.7000**.

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From lovely, lazy holiday to dreary office desktop

Back from your break? Believe it or not, there are ways to tackle this tough transition without tearing your hair out

ISHANI NATH
TalentEgg.ca

By separating the things that can wait for a few days, it will relieve some of your first-day-back workload and stress. ISTOCK

Between frolicking in the frost and sleeping in past noon, long weekends and holidays don't leave much time to think about the office.

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end.

The first day back at work after a holiday can be tough. While you were away, the only paperwork you did was rifling through magazines and trashy novels.

Now that you're back, you're faced with hundreds of emails, new projects and deadlines that are creeping up on you.

Many people return to work and try to go from zero-to-productive all at once, but Robert Half executive Christine Lucy says that trying to get caught up on everything right away is not the solution. For students and new hires, this can present a new challenge. Christine says, "Like anything new, you find ways to deal with it with practice."

Making up for time missed is a delicate balancing act, says Christine. You want to get back into work-mode "without stressing yourself out and losing all the benefits of that vacation."

So how do you get up to speed without getting winded?

Here are some tips for students and new grads who are trying to snap back to reality after the holidays.

Get organized

Whether you're leaving for the Bahamas or simply taking a few days off to lounge around at home, planning ahead will ease your post-vacation work week.

"Being planned and being prepared to return to work can make a big difference," says Christine.

Try to get major projects and anything that is time-sensitive out of the way before you head out.

On that first day back in the office, Christine recommends an early start. That way, you'll be able to get to work on projects that need urgent attention and start sorting through your overstuffed inbox — before co-workers start coming around to ask you about your vacation.

Be realistic

You've been gone for a few days, so don't expect to get caught up in a single day. Trying to tackle everything all at once can leave you feeling stressed and overwhelmed, so prioritize what really needs to get done right away.

For instance, rather than starting with your most recent emails and working your way down, sort through them and deal with the most important ones first. "In reality, not everything has to be done right now," says Christine.

Say "thank you"

While you were enjoying your holiday, someone may have been covering for your job. In order to make a smooth transition back to work, make sure you acknowledge and thank them for their assistance. A simple "thank you" will strengthen your work relationships and make people more likely to help you when it comes time for your next holiday.

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WHL

Giants look for payback vs. Blazers

The Vancouver Giants and Kamloops Blazers will renew acquaintances, four days after combining for 14 goals in a wild, high-scoring affair.

The Giants, who host the Blazers Wednesday evening at the Pacific Coliseum, lost the last meeting 9-5.

However, the Giants are coming off an 8-4 win over the visiting Prince George Cougars on Sunday.

Trevor Cheek notched a hat trick, while teammates Dalton Sward and Anthony Ast added three assists each in the victory.

This season, the Giants have lost all three against the Blazers and have been outscored 15-7.

After hitting the 10-win mark with their win over the Cougars on the weekend, the Giants are still last in the B.C. Division and the WHL's Western Conference, nine points back of Prince George. METRO

MLS

Original Whitecaps owner passes away

Wendy McDonald, one of the founding owners of the Vancouver Whitecaps, passed away Sunday at the age of 90, the local Major League Soccer club announced Monday.

McDonald, who was from North Vancouver, had a stake in the club beginning in 1974.

"Wendy has been a true ambassador, entrepreneur, and philanthropist who made a huge impact on the community," said Whitecaps president Bob Lenarduzzi in a statement on the team's website.

"She remained involved with the club, contributing generously to the Whitecaps Foundation and serving on the Foundation's Net Works Committee. She leaves behind a legacy which will continue to inspire generations to come." METRO

In this Dec. 6 photo, NHL commissioner Gary Bettman, right, and deputy commissioner Bill Daly speak to reporters in New York. The NHL made a counter-proposal to the NHL Players' Associaton on Tuesday night as the sides pushed to reach an agreement that would save the season. MARY ALTAFFER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

NHL tables offer with season in the balance

Getting closer?
League, NHLPA mum on progress with deadline for shortened schedule looming

With the NHL and Players' Association trading proposals back and forth ahead of a deadline to save the season, hope is on the rise that an agreement to return the game to the ice is getting close.

What happens Wednesday will likely determine if that ends up being the case.

Armed with a new comprehensive offer from the league — presented on Tuesday night after a 24-hour period that saw top NHL executives work through New Year's Eve — the union is expected to provide a response at some point during the day. Just as importantly, it must also decide whether it will let a self-imposed deadline pass to file a "disclaimer of interest," which would throw negotiations into uncertainty at a critical juncture.

Commissioner Gary Bettman said the league isn't focused on that possibility and noted that the NHL has been making some movement on the key issues.

"In our response, there were certain things that the players' association asked for that we agreed to, there were some things that we moved in their direction and there were other things that we said no," Bettman said. "But that's part of the process."

The talks are being held with an eye on preserving at least a 48-game schedule — the same number that was played following the 1994-95 lockout. An agreement would need to be in place by Jan. 11 for that to happen.

For now, the more important deadline passes just before midnight on Wednesday when the NHLPA's executive board must decide if it wants to keep being represented by the union. A decision by the players not to file the disclaimer would be seen as a sign that the labour talks are going well. THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

108

There are signs the 108-day lockout is nearing its end. Players who have spent time in Europe are starting to trickle back to North America, including Bruins forward Tyler Seguin and Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist, who wrote on Twitter that "hopefully I'm coming back for the right reason."

Back at the table

The sides have now exchanged three different proposals over the last five days — easily the most aggressive stretch of bargaining during negotiations that have stretched over six months.

CFL. Lions' Elimimian signs futures deal with NFL's Browns: Report

Solomon Elimimian, twice voted the hardest hitter in the Canadian Football League by his peers, could be giving the NFL another try.

After getting released by the Minnesota Vikings and Cleveland Browns last summer and returning to the B.C. Lions to finish out the 2012 CFL season, the middle linebacker reportedly signed a futures contract with the Browns, according to a tweet from Tom Pelissero, the senior editor of 1500ESPN.com out of Minneapolis, on Monday.

In a 2011 CFL on TSN player poll, Elimimian, 26, defended his title as the Canadian league's hardest hitter.

That year, he registered 98 tackles, four sacks and a pair of interceptions, while being named to the West Division and CFL all-star teams.

He was also the CFL's rookie of the year for 2010.

He returned to B.C. in September, but no longer enjoyed starting status at the Lions' middle linebacker position due to the strong play of Adam Bighill, who was rewarded with a contract extension from the local team prior to Christmas.

However, Elimimian himself is still under contract for the Lions until Feb. 15, when CFL free agency starts.

Elimimian's agent, Bardia Ghahremani, made it clear in November, following the Grey Cup in Toronto, that his client is seeking a release from the Lions in order to pursue workout opportunities south of the border.

Ghahremani could not be reached for comment.

CAM TUCKER/METRO

It appears Lions linebacker Solomon Elimimian will once again try his hand in the NFL. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

4 SPORTS

Juniors forge identity half a world away

World juniors. Far from home, Canadian team sticking together on and off the ice

Team Canada teammates Dougie Hamilton, left, Anthony Camara and Malcolm Subban pretend to bobsleigh during practice on Saturday in Ufa, Russia. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Goaltending coach Ron Tugnutt mused aloud during the Canadian junior hockey team's selection camp in Calgary that travelling 13 time zones to pursue a gold medal might not be a disadvantage for the team.

The world junior hockey championship was held in North America for four consecutive years from 2009 to 2012, in Ottawa, Buffalo, Saskatoon and then jointly in Calgary and Edmonton.

The moment the Canadian team stepped off the ice in those tournaments, their performance was reflected back to them around the clock via wall-to-wall media coverage.

Tugnutt hoped Ufa, Russia, would afford this team some isolation.

"They won't be seeing as much of themselves on TV," he said then. "We're kind of on our own little island out there. I think this will be good for us."

After concluding the preliminary round 4-0 to finish first in Pool B, some Canadian players spoke of the unifying effect of travelling so far from home. They've been abroad together since Dec. 15, when Canada departed Calgary for a pre-competition camp and exhibition games in Finland.

"We had a few days in Vierumaki to definitely grow that bond," captain Ryan Nugent-Hopkins said. "It's amazing how much we've come together in this tournament, on and off the ice."

Canadian coach Steve Spott has observed that his players seem happiest off ice when they're hanging around their hotel together.

"They don't want to leave the hotel," Spott said. "We've had a number of team activities planned, but they enjoy being around each other in the hotel, and that, to me, is a sign of a great hockey club."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Now you're into one-game situations, and we all know they are very difficult games, but I do like the place our team is in right now and I like the mindset of the group."

Canadian junior coach Steve Spott

Waiting for their foe

Canada earned a bye to Thursday's semifinal after finishing first in Pool B.

- They await the winner of Wednesday's quarter-final between Czech Republic and the U.S.

NBA. Clippers' winning streak nixed by Nuggets

Nuggets forward Kenneth Faried fouls Los Angeles Clippers guard Chris Paul during Tuesday's game at the Pepsi Center in Denver. JACK DEMPSEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Danilo Gallinari led six Nuggets players in double figures with 17 points, and Denver stopped the Los Angeles Clippers' franchise-record winning streak at 17 games with a 92-78 victory Tuesday night.

The Clippers' streak was the longest in the NBA since the Boston Celtics won 19 in a row from Nov. 15-Dec. 23, 2008.

Kenneth Faried added 14 points and 11 rebounds for the Nuggets, who won their eighth in a row at home.

The Clippers, whose point total was two above their season low, were hurt by poor shooting from 3-point range (5 of 29, 17.2 per cent) and the free-throw line (13 of 29, 44.8 per cent). Blake Griffin and Eric Bledsoe had 12 points apiece to lead Los Angeles.

The loss also ended a franchise-record seven-game road winning streak for the Clippers, who hadn't been beaten since a 105-98 setback against New Orleans on Nov. 26. Andre Miller, starting in place of point guard Ty Lawson, had 12 points and 12 assists for the Nuggets.

Forward Andre Iguodala also helped out at point guard and chipped in with 12 points and eight assists for Denver, which lost to the Clippers in Los Angeles, 112-100 on Christmas Day. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NCAA

Stanford ends Rose Bowl drought with win over Wisconsin

Stanford running back Stepfan Taylor GETTY IMAGES

Although Stanford didn't score many style points in the 99th Rose Bowl, the Cardinal could celebrate because they didn't let Wisconsin score any points at all after halftime.

Stepfan Taylor rushed for 89 yards and an early touchdown, Kevin Hogan passed for 123 yards, and No. 8 Stanford won its first Rose Bowl since 1972, beating the Badgers 20-14 on Tuesday night.

Usua Amanam made the decisive interception near midfield with 2:30 to play as the Pac-12 champion Cardinal (12-2) ended their four-decade drought in the Granddaddy of Them All with arguably the biggest bowl win yet during the long-struggling team's recent renaissance. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Revving up some auto nostalgia

Danny Koker, the restomodding maestro on Pawn Stars' speed dial, has revved the engine on a spinoff series. On History's Counting Cars (premieres tonight 9 p.m. ET/PT), The Count hunts down classic wheels, fixes 'em up and then either flips them or adds the finished beauties to his personal collection. We sought Koker's counsel on some of the sweetest rides to grace the small and big screen.

MIKE DOJC
drive@metronews.ca

1968 Mustang GT 390 Fastback, Bullitt

You can't picture this car without Steve McQueen behind the wheel. The image of the muted highland green muscle car — with deleted emblems and a blacked out tail panel — burning up the hilly streets of San Francisco in hot pursuit of a jet black Dodge Charger has seared itself into the consciousness of cinephiles and auto enthusiasts alike.

Restoration challenge:
Rust is a common issue and you'll likely have to start with a real beater. "Everybody loves to hot rod old mustangs. Lots of them have been crashed on drag strips and roadrace courses, or somebody's teenage kid has wrapped one around a tree. Good examples are getting hard to find, so you're having to settle," explains Koker, who puts $22,000 into a real hunk of junk and transforms it into a beautiful Bullitt tribute on the debut episode.

Price:
$50 to 60k depending on options.

1961 Ferrari 250 GT California Spyder, Ferris Bueller's Day Off

Car crazed teens drooled on their popcorn over this candy red V12 five-speed aluminum-bodied dream machine when Matthew Broderick took this "so choice" beauty for a spin. "Ironically, the one in the movie was a replica," explains Koker. "(They used) a fiberglass-bodied car on a late model Mustang chassis with a small block Ford 302 motor. To use a real '61 Spyder would've been insane."

Restoration Challenge:
Finding original parts would be almost impossible. But if you have deep pockets, you could go to Italy and have Ferrari re-manufacture whatever you need.

Price:
In 2008, a '61 once owned by the late James Coburn sold for $10.9 million. The actual car from the film sold for a mere fraction of that in 2010, fetching $122,000 in a Bonhams auction, practically double the London auction house's estimate of $45 to 65k.

1969 Dodge Charger, Dukes of Hazzard

The General Lee didn't just give Boss Hogg's flunkies the slip, Chrysler's aerodynamic wild child was designed to lap the competition. Of course, no car could land those ridiculous frame-buckling jumps and drive away unscathed. Nearly 300 Chargers were wrecked over the run of the television series from 1979-1985. "These were really awesome cars with huge engines stuffed into them. You could get a 440 with a six pack (six carburetors), or you could get a hemi. The car was a drag race car right off the showroom floor," says Koker.

Restoration Challenge:
While the parts are out there for old Mopars, they didn't produce as many as other muscle cars from the same period, so they're much more expensive.

Price:
You can build one for $30 to 40k.

1958 Plymouth Fury, Christine

The demonic two-door hardtop was conceived by Chrysler, but made infamous by horror masters Stephen King and John Carpenter, first in print and subsequently on the big screen. The 1983 film turned this proto-muscle car into an icon. "I love that car because it was an oddball, it was not a car that people sought out to collect and restore. I thought it was really cool that that car was selected to be used and that the version in the movie was restored to 100 per cent original condition," says Koker.

Restoration Challenge:
To take it back to the nuts and bolts original, all your parts have to be the real deal. "Everything you do to the interior has to be accurate, the way you detail the engine compartment has to be accurate, and all those things cost extra money," adds Koker.

Price:
You could build one for $50 to 60k.

Q & A. Danny The Count Koker weighs in

Danny Koker
HANDOUT

When Rick and the gang at Pawn Stars need advice on anything with wheels and an engine, they call Danny The Count Koker of Las Vegas' Count Kustoms. On Counting Cars, his spinoff series on History, Koker trolls the streets of Nevada for sweet rides to fix up and then flip, but if he grows too attached they find their way into his expansive personal collection.

You have any tips for first time restorers looking for a project?
Don't get in over your head and pick something that you personally love because you're going to get frustrated and want to throw in the towel somewhere along the line. That's why you gotta pick something that you connect with so you'll stick with the project and see it through to the end. If it's a first time project, pick something simple. Go with an old Mustang, an old Camaro, a '55 Chevy, or something like that where the parts are available and it is not rocket science as far as building it and putting it together.

You knock on doors, stop cars at lights and scout parking lots when you're cruising for cars. Do you think you get better deals looking for cars that don't have for sale signs on them yet?
I believe so. That is my philosophy. It's something that I've been doing for years. In my opinion, if a car has a for sale sign on it, you're already too late. Whoever is selling it has already thought about it, done their research and they know what they want for it. It's probably going to be a little bit tougher to work a deal with somebody like that.

What's your success rate using your bold tactics?
Lots of times when we knock on a door or pull somebody over, or find something in a parking lot, sure I get, "No". It's rare to find somebody to say, "OK, I'll sell you my car." I get the no all the time. But on the rare occasion, you get someone in the right frame of mind and mood. They really haven't given it too much thought and maybe they need a little money right now, and you might be able to work a better deal.

MIKE DOJC

Hot cars and hot trends for 2013

Sexy ride! A rundown of the year's most exciting vehicles and their mouth-watering features

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

It's that time again when we must take stock of last year and look forward to the next. Or climb into a big, woolen sock and hibernate until May. Someone poked me with a stick, so I'm up- and-Adam and ready to pursue the former option.

2012 was a year when the manufacturers really focused on giving us increased fuel economy in every vehicle category, and not just the smaller ones.

This is a trend we'll certainly see continue in 2013 and beyond. Exhibit A: The all-new and completely redesigned Corvette debuting at this month's Detroit auto show. It promises to go from zero to 60 m.p.h. in under four seconds and deliver 26 m.p.g. (9 L/100 km) fuel efficiency on the highway.

The 'Vette is also part of another trend — that high-end performance and luxury vehicles aren't going anywhere. They seem indifferent to socio-economic times that might suggest buyers lean toward more austere and/or greener choices. Luxury brands in Canada actually did better (proportionally) in the 2012 sales year than many mainstream brands.

BMW has an interesting strategy rolling out in 2013 to cope with this duality in the marketplace. It will introduce the "I" sub-brand, to distinguish the automaker's most out-there green vehicles. The i3, a five-door EV, will launch at the end of 2013, while the i8 hybrid sports car will follow in early 2014.

All luxury brands helped themselves recently by dipping into smaller and less-expensive segments. Last year, we saw Buick Encore and BMW X1 work this angle, and next year Audi Q3 will do its thing in this compact-luxury segment. Get ready to see more of these compact, entry-level luxury crossovers.

But the one luxury-performance car I'm most looking forward to next year is the 2013 Jaguar F-Type, the first full-on two-seat sports car from Jaguar in more than 50 years.

Small is getting more fun, with the recent arrivals of such over-achievers as Ford Focus ST, Fiat 500 Abarth and Mini Roadster. Fun will go even smaller, when the 2014 Ford Fiesta ST arrives, with its near-200 hp Ecoboost engine and 6-speed manual shifter.

This influx of hot, small and bothered vehicles is also part of another, larger trend — North American buyers are becoming more simpatico with our European counterparts. As such, we're seeing less differentiation between product offerings between the markets and that's a good thing. Two interesting Euro-born vehicles to watch for next year are the four-door Fiat 500L and Ford's new minivan, the Transit Connect.

Of course we'll see more full-on EVs come on stream in 2013, such as Chevrolet Spark EV, smart ForTwo Electric, Honda Fit EV, and the fore-mentioned BMW i3. Will they help make EV mainstream? Probably not in 2013, but if they keep coming and do their stuff, prime time can't be too far away.

And how about mainstream diesel? The all-new 2014 Mazda6 is available with a 2.2-litre diesel engine. As the first (non-VW) mainstream sedan with a diesel, it will be interesting to watch how it will be embraced in 2013.

Finally, we must also pay attention to the continuing "smart phoning" of vehicles. Just this week, Hyundai announced it was working on a smart phone app utilizing NFC technology that would allow you to do a host of things to your vehicle, not the least of which would be unlocking it and starting it. Yes, starting your car with a phone and not a key. Which begs the question, at what point is the smartphone an extension of the car, or the car an extension of the smartphone? I'll leave you now to discuss that, 'cause I'm crawling back into my comfy sock.

Vroom

The one luxury-performance car I'm most looking forward to next year is the 2013 Jaguar F-Type, the first full-on two-seat sports car from Jaguar in more than 50 years

Mike Goetz

Camouflaged Corvette debuting at the Detroit auto show. HANDOUT

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You have been a bit too generous for your own good of late and, not surprisingly, someone has taken advantage of the situation. Now you must take back what was taken from you, plus a little extra for your trouble.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If there is something new you would like to do, something extravagant and exciting, you must stop dreaming about it and get on with it. The Sun in Capricorn urges you to get busy right now — later is too late.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
What happens over the next two or three days will bring the kind of changes that even you feel happy about. You should have realized by now that not all change is bad. Some change is exciting and even inspiring.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You are embarking on one of the best times for one-to-one relationships, both personal and professional. Others will go out of their way to help you over the next 24 hours. Go out of your way to enjoy it.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Focus on quality work today. You may be tempted to take on more duties and responsibilities but that will inevitably lead to a loss of value. The fewer things you do, the better you will do them.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This may be a time of great activity but don't overdo it. Set your sights high today but don't aim for too many things all at the same time. No matter how fit you feel you will burn yourself out.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You will have to make decisions for other people today. It may worry you that their welfare is in your hands but fate has put you in this position for a reason, so be confident you will make a success of it.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
You will face a number of challenges over the next few days and you cannot run away from them. That's good. Your life is in a bit of a rut at the moment and you need something to get you out of it.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If someone asks you to take on more work today you must be strong-minded enough to say no. Whatever you might think you owe other people, you owe more to yourself — and nothing matters more than your health.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
There is nothing you cannot achieve if you want it enough. Rarely have the omens been this good, so stop worrying about what the neighbors might think and start living the kind of life you dream of.

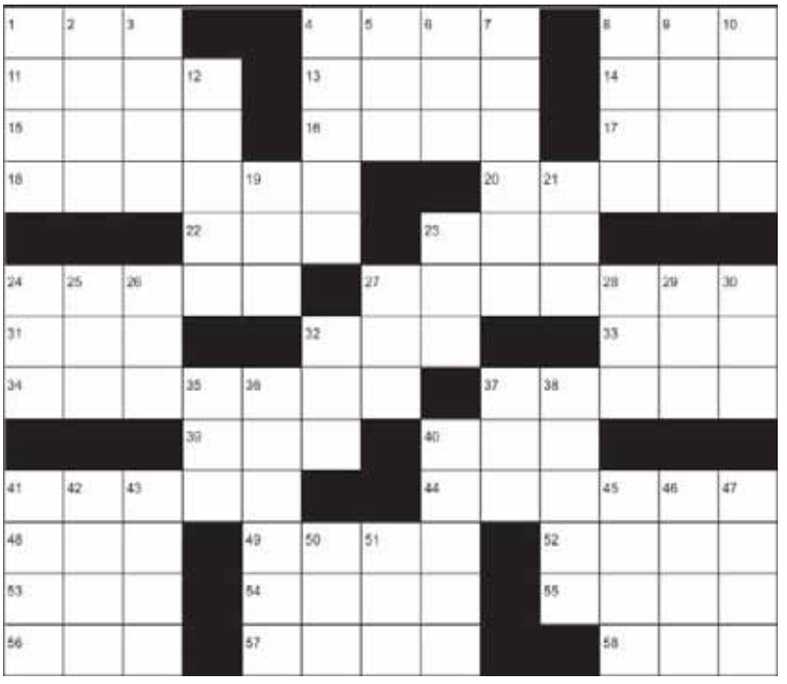
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may be tempted to start something new today but the planets indicate it would be wiser, and easier, to focus your energies on finishing what you have already started. Attitude is everything. Think of it as fun.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
The planets warn you have only a limited grasp of what is going on at the moment and what others tell you today is needed to complete the picture. Thank them for pointing out what you have missed.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword

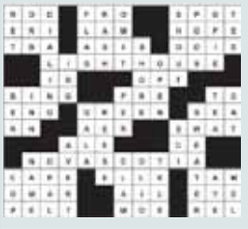
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Light-feather link (2 words)
4. College major
8. Captain's journal
11. Lose one's cool
13. Operatic solo
14. "Cold Mountain" heroine
15. The Munsters' bat
16. Auction word
17. Term of respect
18. Defense mechanism
20. Not now
22. Happy Days hangout
23. Chest muscle, for short
24. Soup server
27. Frontier figure
31. Disney deer
32. – – standstill (2 words)
33. Wide shoe width
34. Be lenient with
37. Aroma
39. Lay eyes on
40. Exclude
41. Book contents
44. Newspaper employee
48. Slippery fish
49. Variety
52. Scotch partner
53. Before, of yore
54. Sign on a door
55. Nudge
56. Fish eggs
57. Snoopy
58. Hospital units (abbr.)

Down
1. Extremely dry
2. Stuffing herb
3. Before long
4. Sends a letter
5. Gallery display
6. Even score
7. Small village
8. Bringing up the rear
9. Cartoon dog
10. Actress Teri of "Tootsie"
12. Courtroom drama
19. Pub offering
21. Pretend
23. Soup vegetable
24. Flower garland
25. Abby's twin sister
26. Family man
27. Sault — Marie
28. Jeans brand
29. Poetic time of day
30. Soak as flax
32. Epoch
35. Benefit
36. Subside
37. Down in the dumps
38. Crunchy
40. Veronica's friend
41. Look closely
42. Flying (prefix)
43. High spirits
45. Ripped
46. Unpleasant smell
47. X-ray dosages
50. Losing tic-tac-toe row
51. Sue Grafton novel: – – for Ricochet (letter and word)

Dec. 21's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Dec. 21's Sudoku

7	5	8	9	1	3	2	4	6
9	6	3	4	7	2	8	5	1
2	4	1	5	8	6	3	7	9
1	7	4	6	3	9	5	8	2
5	8	2	1	4	7	9	6	3
3	9	6	2	5	8	4	1	7
4	1	9	7	2	5	6	3	8
8	3	5	8	9	1	7	2	4
6	2	7	3	6	4	1	9	5

4			3		9			
5	9						4	8
	6			4		9		
	3		1	2				4
		2				7		
1				8	7		5	
		4		1			6	
9	1						2	3
			2		6			7

Today 4°/2° Sunny
Thursday 6°/4° Showers 40%
Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
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FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE $15,444♦

ELANTRA L 6-SPEED MANUAL.
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2012 CANADIAN & NORTH AMERICAN CAR OF THE YEAR

HWY: 5.2L/100 KM
CITY: 7.1L/100 KM

Limited model shown

HWY: 5.6L/100 KM
CITY: 8.7L/100 KM

Limited model shown

2013 SONATA

GET UP TO

$3,500 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ **WITH 0%†** FINANCING FOR 48 MONTHS

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE $22,064♦

SONATA GL AUTO.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

THE MOST FUEL-EFFICIENT FULL-SIZED CAR – NATURAL RESOURCE CANADA'S 2012 ECOENERGY VEHICLE AWARD◊

HWY: 6.7L/100 KM
CITY: 10.1L/100 KM

Limited model shown

2013 SANTA FE

GET UP TO

$1,150 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ **WITH 0%†** FINANCING FOR 24 MONTHS

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE $27,109♦

SANTA FE 2.4L FWD AUTO.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

2013 AJAC BEST NEW SUV (OVER $35K)

5 YEAR WARRANTY 100,000 KM COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY††

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

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™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. †Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2013 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual/Sonata GL Auto/Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto with an annual finance rate of 0%/0%/0% for 24/48/24 months. Bi-weekly payment is $297/$213/$522. No down payment required. Cost of Borrowing is $0/$0/$0. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,495/$1,565/$1,760. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. Financing example: 2013 Sonata GL Auto for $22,064 (includes $3,500 price adjustment) at 0% per annum equals $213 bi-weekly for 48 months for a total obligation of $22,064. Cash price is $22,064. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Example price includes Delivery and Destination of $1,565. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ▼Fuel consumption for 2013 Elantra Sedan L 6-Speed Manual (HWY 5.2L/100KM; City 7.1L/100KM)/2013 Sonata GL Auto (HWY 5.6L/100KM; City 8.7L/100KM)/2013 Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto (HWY 6.7L/100KM, City 10.1L/100KM) are based on Manufacturer Testing. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. †♦Friends & Family prices for models shown (includes $2,000/$3,225/$1,250 in price adjustments): 2013 Elantra Limited/Sonata Limited/Santa Fe 2.0T Limited AWD is $22,694/$27,339/$39,009. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,495/$1,565/$1,760. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ♦Friends & Family Selling Prices are calculated against the starting price less all factory to dealer price adjustments (including Friends & Family price adjustments). Friends & Family Selling Prices include Delivery and Destination. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ‡Factory to dealer price adjustments (including Friends & Family price adjustments) are calculated against the vehicle's starting price. Factory to Dealer Price adjustments of $2,000/$3,500/$1,150 available on 2013 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual/Sonata GL Auto/Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto. Factory to dealer price adjustments are applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. †♦‡Offers available for a limited time, and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ◊Based on Natural Resource Canada's 2012 ecoEnergy award for most fuel efficient full-size car. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.

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